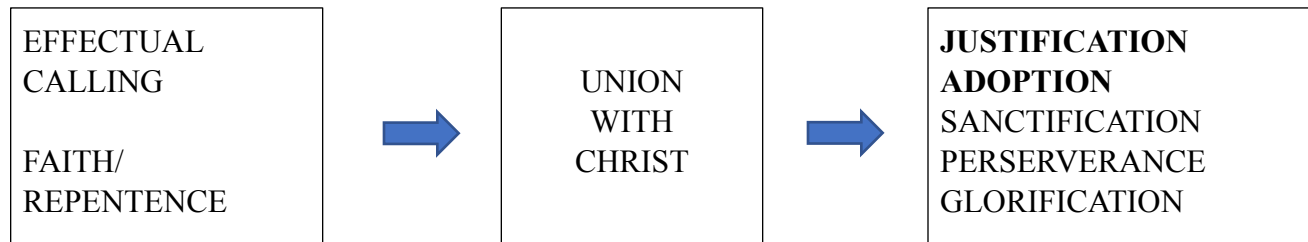


## Lesson 9

### Benefits of our Union with Christ (Part 1): Justification & Adoption

**Objective:** To understand and rest in the profound and glorious truth that because of our union with Christ we are now justified and adopted children of God.

#### GOSPEL PROCESS



#### I. Justification assures us of our legal status with God

A. The Negative Element of Justification: Our sins are forgiven

1. How do we become Righteous? (Romans 1:16-17)

- Inherited Righteousness
- Infused Righteousness
- Imputed Righteousness

B. The Positive Element of Justification: We are declared righteous in Christ

#### II. The Importance of Justification.

*“When the article of justification has fallen, everything is fallen. This is the chief article from which all other doctrines have flowed. It alone begets, nourishes, builds preserves and defends the church of God; and without it the church cannot exist for one hour. It is the master and prince, the lord and ruler, and the judge over all kinds of doctrines...the truth of the gospel is the principle article of all Christian doctrine. Most necessary is that we know this article well, teach it to others and beat it into their heads continually.” Martin Luther*

A. What is Justification: Justification by God’s Free Grace.

WLC Q70:

Q. What is justification?

A. *Justification is an act of God’s free grace unto sinners, in which he pardons all their sins, accepts and accounts their persons righteous in his sight; not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to them, and received by faith alone.*

(Read Romans 3:19-22; Galatians 2:15-16)

B. The Confusion that Justification answers:

1. Sincerity is everything
2. Performance is everything
3. Piety is everything
4. Everything is optional

C. Justifications' Ground: The Finished Work of Christ.

*“Justification keeps us from thinking we need to be our own saviors. Jesus’ work alone is the foundation for why God loves me, accepts me, forgives, preserves me. No amount of deeds, experiences, knowledge can ever add to his grace in justifying me. Justification is a one-time act whereby we are declared to be in a right relationship with God through Jesus.”*

**III. Adoption assures us of our being in the family of God**

WCF Chapter 12 of adoption

Section 1

*All those that are justified, God vouchsafed, in and for His only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption: By which they are taken into the number and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God; have His name put upon them, receive the Spirit of adoption; have access to the throne of grace with boldness; are enabled to cry, Abba, Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by Him as by a Father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.*

Passages (John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16-17; 1 John 3:1-2)

A. Results of our Adoption

1. Old Family Ties are Broken
2. New family privileges become ours
  - Christ is not ashamed to be called our brother (Heb 2:11)
  - We can approach God and know him as “Abba” (Eph 2:18; Rom 8:15)
  - We are recipients of the Father’s Care (Ps. 103:13; 1 Peter 5:7)
  - We are co-heirs (rather than joint heirs) with Christ (Romans 8:17)

B. Implications of Adoption -We now have a guarantee (sealed by the Holy Spirit)

1. New Status in Christ= Sons and daughters of the living God (2 Cor 6:18)
2. New Calling = To honor the name of our Father
3. New Conflict = This will not come naturally...it will be a fight-both within ourselves and outside ourselves (Sanctification) (Romans 7, John 15:18-23)
4. New Future = Glory (1 Jn. 3:1-2)

THE ORPHAN	THE SON / DAUGHTER
<input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't feel connected to God in daily life	<input type="checkbox"/> Feels connected to God throughout the day
<input type="checkbox"/> Anxious about friends, money, school, grades, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Feels freed from worry because of God's love for you
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels as if no one cares about you	<input type="checkbox"/> Feels forgiven and totally accepted
<input type="checkbox"/> Lives on a success/fail basis	<input type="checkbox"/> Trust in God's plan for your life
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs to look good	<input type="checkbox"/> Quick to pray about things
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels guilty and condemned	<input type="checkbox"/> Content in relationships b/c you are accepted by God
<input type="checkbox"/> Struggles to trust God with the future	<input type="checkbox"/> Is teachable by others
<input type="checkbox"/> Not very teachable	<input type="checkbox"/> Open to criticism b/c your identity is secure in Christ
<input type="checkbox"/> Is defensive when accused of error or weakness	<input type="checkbox"/> Able to take risks—even to fail
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be right	<input type="checkbox"/> Encouraged by the Spirit working in you
<input type="checkbox"/> Lacks confidence	<input type="checkbox"/> Able to see God's goodness in dark times
<input type="checkbox"/> Solution to failure: "Try harder"	<input type="checkbox"/> Content with what you have
<input type="checkbox"/> Has a critical spirit (complaining and bitterness)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trusting less in self and more in the Holy Spirit
<input type="checkbox"/> Tears others down	<input type="checkbox"/> Is able to freely confess faults to others
<input type="checkbox"/> Tends to compare yourself with others	<input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't always have to be right
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels powerless to defeat the flesh	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not gain value from the praise of others
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be in control of situations and others	<input type="checkbox"/> Experiences more and more freedom from sin and bad habits
<input type="checkbox"/> Looks for satisfaction in "positions"	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer is a vital, ongoing part of the day
<input type="checkbox"/> Looks for satisfaction in "possessions"	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus is more and more the subject of conversation
<input type="checkbox"/> Tends to be motivated by obligation and duty, not love	<input type="checkbox"/> God truly satisfies your soul

1. Starting with the left side, go around with your group and share your top 2 or 3 "orphan" tendencies.
  - How does feeling this way affect how we relate to God and others?
  - How does this tendency reveal a fundamental unbelief in the truths of the gospel? (specifically when it comes to receiving God's approval rather than trying to perform and earn it)
2. Now moving on to the right side, let's go around and share the 2 or 3 ways that you want to see God change you?
  - How would this change the way you relate to God and others?
  - How does knowing God as our Father who is "rich in mercy" and has forgiven us in Christ empower us to grow in this way?